

Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee

Open Minutes

- Commencing:** Thursday 19 September 2024, 1.00 pm
- Venue:** Kawerau District Council Chamber, Ranfurly Court, KAWERAU 3127
- Chairperson:** Cr Malcolm Campbell - Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana (BOPRC)
- Deputy Chairperson:** Mayor David Moore - Ōpōtiki District Council
- Members:** Mayor Faylene Tunui - Kawerau District Council
Mayor Victor Luca - Whakatāne District Council
Deputy Mayor Lesley Immink - Whakatāne District Council
Cr Toi Iti, Alternate – Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- In Attendance:** Stace Lewer – Chief Executive Ōpōtiki District Council,
Whakatane DC Steven Perdia – Chief Executive (Zoom),
David Bewley – GM Development & Environment, Emlyn Hatch – GM People & Management, Danielle Caudwell – Manager, Economic Development Strategy.

Paul Wilson, Acting Area Commander of Police, Namouta Poutasi – General Manager, Strategy and Science, BOP Regional Council, Pari Maxwell – Committee Secretary, Kawerau District Council
- Apologies:** Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika – Kawerau District Council, Cr Steve Nelson - Ōpōtiki District Council, Cr Jane Nees – Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Apologies were also noted for Doug Leeder – Chair, BOPRC, Fiona McTavish – Chief Executive, BOPRC, Morgan Godfery – Chief Executive, KDC,

Declaration of Public Recording

The Chairperson advised those present that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be made available on the Kawerau District Council's website.

1. Opening Karakia

Mayor Faylene Tunui opened the meeting with a karakia.

2. Apologies

Resolved

That the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee:

- 1 Accepts the apologies from Deputy Mayor A Rangihika, Cr S Nelson and Cr J Nees tendered at the meeting and lateness for Cr T Iiti.

Moore/Luca
CARRIED

3. Public Forum

No requests received for Public Forum.

4. Items not on the Agenda

No further Items added to the Agenda.

5. Order of Business

Resolved

That the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee:

- 1 Resolves to move Items 9.5 Toi-EDA and 9.6 Community Safety Update into Public Excluded.

Tunui/Moore
CARRIED

6. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

7. Minutes

Minutes to be Confirmed

7.1 Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee Minutes – 10 November 2023

Deputy Mayor Immink informed that Cr Andrew Iles was no longer the alternate member to the Joint Committee.

Resolved

That the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee:

- 1 Confirms the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee Minutes – 10 November 2023 as a true and correct record.

Campbell/Moore
CARRIED

8. Reports

8.1 Global City Relationship with Jiangxi, China

Presented by: Danielle Caudwell, Manager Economic Development, Whakatane District Council

Key Points:

- Eight (8) volunteers from the Eastern BOP were heading to Jiangxi, China on 23 September 2024 for three (3) months.
- Eastern Bridge has been working with businesses in the Bay of Plenty, to strengthen trade between the Eastern Bay and Jiangxi.
- Eastern Bridge has also been working with Whakatane DC to receive a delegation from Jiangxi in 2025.

In Response to Questions:

- Costs for the eight (8) volunteers were covered by Jiangxi. An interview process was undertaken by Eastern Bridge to select eight (8) volunteers that met the criteria set by Jiangxi. The volunteers completed training in Chinese language, culture and practical skills with a focus on classroom management and English teaching.
- One of the trades being explored was Honey. Also discussed with interest was aquaculture and solar.
- Jiangxi was taking care of their own costs while visiting but welcomed an invitation from the Eastern Bay to host a dinner during their stay.

Next Steps:

- There was a willingness to keep the relationship with Jiangxi; however, the Committee acknowledged that its current priority was its economic development strategy which was linked to export.
- The Committee welcomed an update from the delegation on their return from Jiangxi to better understand what the relationship looks like post-COVID, given the impact COVID has had on the globe.
- There was also a desire from the Committee to better understand what overseas exchanges were already in place with our Eastern Bay Industries and Schools, so that relationships and support could be better aligned.

Resolved

That the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee:

- 1 Receives the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee Update Report**
- 2 That the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee agrees to continue the relationship it has with Jiangxi, China.**

**Luca/Moore
CARRIED**

9. Presentations and Verbal Updates

9.1 BOP Regional Growth Summit on Friday, 20 September

Mayor Victor Luca provided an update on the upcoming Summit.

Key Points:

- The BOP Mayoral Forum unanimously agreed to submit seven (7) regional projects, with two being in the Eastern Bay.
- Mayor Tunui explained that businesses and Iwi entities could also apply directly to KANOA (Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit) if they had a project that met the criteria.
- While other Economic Development Agencies will speak on behalf of their Council, the Eastern Bay Councils will speak for themselves.
- Mayor Luca acknowledged both Opotiki and Kawerau Mayors for entrusting him to speak on behalf of the three (3) Councils.

9.2 Regional Deals

Presented by: Stace Lewer, CEO of Opotiki District Council.

Key Points:

- The Government was inviting five (5) regions to provide proposals for a Regional Deal. The Strategic Framework has been released.
- There may be an opportunity for the Eastern Bay to apply to the Regional Deals.

Next Steps:

- CEO Lewer suggested that the Committee keep this as a watching brief and if required, a future report will be provided.

9.3 Opotiki Harbour Presentation

Presented by: Stace Lewer, CEO Opotiki District Council (Attachment 1)

Key Points:

- Updated the Committee on the 30-year vision as well as progress on the Harbour and future infrastructure requirements for delivering a nationally significant project
- Highlighted key parts to the Harbour, i.e. residential development, marine industrial zone, the processing factory and the public wharf, which all added to the success of the project.
- Discussed climate change to ensure the town was protected from flooding.

In Response to Questions:

- A significant amount of employment was created through the establishment of the mussel farm and the construction of the processing factory
- Whakatōhea Mussels are sold in shops, but its largest market is the U.S.
- Iwi were exploring investment opportunities to develop the sea farms.
- Opotiki District Council collaborated with KANOA to upgrade the town wharf to enable the mussel boats to operate out of the Opotiki Harbour via the town wharf. The resource consent for the Marina industrial zone was recently approved.
- Housing development will take place through the Harbour construction and future growth area at Hukutaia, and will offer a range of housing options.

Next Steps:

- Mayor Tunui congratulated Opotiki District Council on reaching this milestone and looked forward to witnessing the completion and celebrating at the Opening.
- Mayor Moore was giving his speaking allotment to former Mayor, John Forbes, in acknowledgement of his mahi with the Opotiki Harbour.

9.4 Civil Defence Emergency Management – Eastern BOP Readiness

Mayor Tunui as Chair of BOP Civil Defence Joint Committee acknowledged Elected Members' Emergency Management responsibility to their Communities, and asked how well prepared and ready was the Eastern Bay in a Civil Defence Emergency.

Cr Toi Iti further asked if there was an ability for Iwi and Councils to work together given that Iwi were already operating in that space with their hapu.

David Bewley explained that in his time, the Eastern BOP Emergency Managers met frequently. There was an understanding that the three councils would support each other in an emergency. Regarding Iwi – more Marae were standing up and helping their communities. Emergency officers have met with Iwi to see how they can best support.

Next Steps:

Mayor Tunui asked that Civil Defence Training be made available to Elected Members annually, to keep them upskilled and refreshed on their responsibilities.

Mayor Moore suggested that it would be a great opportunity for the Eastern Bay Councils to visit Gisborne, one of its Zone Two members, to see firsthand how Iwi and Council work together. Mayor Moore noted that Gisborne has had 16 events in two and a half years. A visit will be of benefit to the Eastern Bay, to learn from Gisborne.

9.5 Eastern BOP Spatial Plan Presentation

Presented by David Bewley, General Manager, Development and Environment, Whakatane. (Attachment 2)

Key Points:

- Updated on the progress of the Spatial Plan project and development options
- Public consultation from Monday 14 October to Sunday 17 November
- Sessions will be held around the three districts during the consultation period. Elected Members are invited to attend.
- Members discussed the impact that climate change adaptation and infrastructure affordability may have on the Eastern Bay.
- Members were willing to have those upfront conversations with their communities and asked staff to keep Elected Members well informed and updated.

In Response to Questions:

- There wasn't a blanket approach to climate change. In some places there were solutions that enabled the risk level to be reduced; in other places there was an awareness, and still proceed. Land could still be developed if it met certain criteria.
- There was a cross-Council team working on the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan that will keep Elected Members up to date with information in advance as well as collective key messages.
- There was a communications team that will convey key information to the Community.

Next Steps:

- Following the close of consultation period, the Governance Group will hear from people who want to speak; then recommendations will be shared to each Council on how consultation feedback will be addressed.
- Staff will draft the Spatial Plan and Implementation Actions and present this to the Governance Group and Councils
- A second consultation period will be held in mid-2025 with an aim to have the final draft plan to Councils to approve

10. Public Excluded Section

Resolved

Resolution to exclude the public

- 1 Excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting as set out below:**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No.	Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	When the item can be released into the public.
10.1	Toi-EDA	Withholding the information is necessary to protect information which if public would unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	48 (1) (a) (i) Section 7(2)(b)	To remain in public excluded.

10.2	Community Safety Update	Withholding the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.	48 (1) (a) (i) Section 7(2)(c)	
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- 2 That Paul Wilson – Acting Area Commander, Police be permitted to be in the public excluded section of the meeting due to his knowledge of the matter under discussion, being Community Safety

Tunui/Luca
CARRIED

11. Closing Karakia

Cr Toi Iti closed the meeting with a karakia.

4.17 pm – the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED

Cr Malcolm Campbell
Chairperson, Eastern BOP Joint Committee